

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An ~~improved~~ injection device for self-administering vaccine injections ~~painlessly~~ to a patient, comprising:
 - a housing having a base portion; a needle positioned within the housing, the needle having an injection end and having an outside diameter greater than 0.20 mm and less than about 0.38 mm that effects a painless insertion of the needle into the patient, and being configured for extension to a position wherein the injection end extends through and beyond the base portion; a reservoir for the vaccine, in ~~;~~ ~~and a means for liquid communication between the reservoir and with the injection needle; and a means for injecting a vaccine from the reservoir through the needle;~~
 - a separable base associated with the base portion, comprising an adhesive on a skin-facing surface thereof and an opposed surface, that secures the device to the skin of a patient during the time that the device self-administers the injection of the vaccine to the patient, and
 - a means for separably affixing the separable base with the base portion, and a base separation means for selectively separating the separable base from the device while the separable base is secured to the skin.
2. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the separable base can be re-affixed to the base portion after separation.
3. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the separable base ~~further~~ comprises an adhesive flap extending from a periphery of the separable base, the flap having an adhesive on a skin-facing surface thereof, ~~whereby the flap provides securement of the separable base to the skin of the patient.~~

4. (original) The device according to Claim 3 wherein the adhesive flap extends from the entire periphery of the separable base.
5. (original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the means for separably affixing the separable base to the base portion can comprise: a mechanical securement, an adhesive securement, and a magnetic securement, of the separable base with the housing.
6. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the means for seperably affixing comprises at least one engagement in the opposed surface of the separable base; and at least one engaging member extending from the base portion of the housing; wherein the at least one engaging member has a first position associated with the engagement wherein the removable base is secured to the housing, and a second position associated with the engagement wherein the removable base is not secured to the housing.
7. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 6 wherein the removable base has a slot in the opposed surface, wherein the at least one engaging member has a latch whereby the latch engages the slot in its first position, thereby securing the seperable base to the housing, and wherein the at least one engaging member can be biased to the second position wherein the latch is not engaged with the slot, thereby unsecuring the separable base to the housing.
8. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 7 wherein the at least one engaging member has a button affixed thereto configured to accept a biasing force from outside the housing, which biases the latch of the engaging member to its second, unsecured position.
9. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 6, further comprising a means for retracting the injection needle which retracts ~~whereby~~ the injection end of the needle is ~~retracted~~ from its extended position to a position within the housing.
10. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 9 wherein the retracting means comprises a means for moving a needle insertion securement from a first position that secures ~~wherein the needle is secured~~ in its extended position, to a second position that does not secure

~~wherein the needle is not secured~~ in its extended position, and a needle retraction means for biasing the needle toward a position within the housing, whereby when the needle is not secured in its extended position, the needle is retracted to its housing position, and ~~wherein~~ the injection end of the needle is positioned within the housing.

11. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 10 wherein the at least one engaging member can not be biased to its second position unless the needle is at its housing position, thereby preventing the injection end of the needle from being extended beyond the base portion of the housing when the separable base is removed from the housing.

12. – 15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the self-administering device holds ~~is configured to hold~~ itself in a position attached to the skin of the patient, without requiring a medical technician, the patient, or other person, to hold the device, during the time that the vaccine is injected into the patient through the needle, and wherein the adhesive on the skin-facing surface of the separable base provides adhesive, hands-free, self-attachment of the device to the skin of the patient.

17. (currently amended) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the injection further comprising a means for injecting injects the vaccine at a substantially constant volumetric flow rate of about 0.5 $\mu\text{L/s}$ to about 20 $\mu\text{L/s}$ from the reservoir through the needle, which effects a painless injection.

18. (new) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a means for retracting the injection needle which retracts the injection end of the needle from its extended position to a position within the housing.

19. (new) The device according to Claim 18 wherein the at least one engaging member cannot be biased to its second position unless the needle is at its housing position, which prevents the

injection end of the needle from extending beyond the base portion of the housing when the separable base is removed from the housing.

20. (new) An injection device for self-administering vaccine injections to a patient, comprising:

- a housing having a base portion; a needle positioned within the housing, the needle having an injection end having an outside diameter greater than 0.20 mm and less than about 0.38 mm, and being configured for extension to a position wherein the injection end extends through and beyond the base portion; a reservoir for the vaccine in liquid communication with the needle; and a means for injecting a vaccine from the reservoir through the needle;
- a separable base associated with the base portion, comprising an adhesive on a skin-facing surface thereof and an opposed surface, that secures the device to the skin of a patient during the time that the device self-administers the injection of the vaccine to the patient,
- a means for separably affixing the separable base with the base portion, and
- a means for retracting the injection needle, which retracts the injection end of the needle from its extended position to a position within the housing.

21. (new) The device according to Claim 20 wherein the retracting means allows separation of the separable base from the separable base portion of the housing after the needle retraction means has biased the needle to retract to its housing position.

22. (new) The device according to Claim 20 further comprising a base separation means for selectively separating the separable base from the device while the separable base is secured to the skin.